



NEWS RELEASE

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**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California**

**United States Attorney
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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced today that a federal grand jury sitting in San Diego returned a three-count indictment charging BERNARD LAWRENCE RUSSELL, a resident of San Diego, with traveling in foreign commerce with intent to engage in a sexual act with a juvenile, producing child pornography, and possessing child pornography for importation into the United States.

The indictment alleges that the defendant traveled to the Philippines in October 2002 with the intent to engage in sexual activity with minors and, while in the Philippines, produced child pornography for the purpose of importation into the United States.

Russell faces up to 45 years imprisonment if convicted on all counts. In addition, he is subject to a fine of \$250,000, a mandatory special assessment of \$100.00, and a three-year term of supervised release per count.

United States Attorney Lam praised the efforts of the San Diego Office of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, who conducted the investigation and arrested the defendant, as well as the efforts of the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the United States Department of Justice who is assisting in the prosecution of this case.

DEFENDANT

BERNARD LAWRENCE RUSSELL

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

COUNT 1

Travel with Intent to Engage in Sexual Act with a Juvenile; Title 18 U.S.C., Sec. 2423(b)
Maximum Penalty per count: fifteen years in custody

COUNT 2

Sexual Exploitation of a Child (Production of Child Pornography); Title 18 U.S.C., Sec. 2251(a)
Maximum Penalty per count: twenty years in custody

COUNT 3

Possession of Child Pornography for Importation into the United States; Title 18 U.S.C., Sec. 2260
Maximum Penalty per count: ten years in custody

An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendant committed the crimes charged. The defendant is presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.